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**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 5th August, 2025.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

5. Operational Issues

- (c) Request for Events in our Parks (Pages 1 - 4)

6. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (a) Lagan Gateway - Pedestrian Crossing (Cllr de Faoite to raise)

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Subject:	Request for Events in our Park
Date:	5 th August 2025
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director Resources, Fleet and Open Spaces and Streetscene

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number N/A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? N/A</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 100px; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; width: 100%; height: 100%; background: linear-gradient(to bottom, transparent 49%, #ccc 49% 51%, #ccc 51% 53%, transparent 53%);"></div> </div> </div>	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a request from All Nation Church, address of National Boxing Stadium, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, Ireland – to host a “March for Jesus” at Ormeau Park, Saturday 23 rd August 2025.
1.2	“March for Jesus” is a non-political, family-friendly celebration of the Christian faith. It seeks to bring together churches from across the island of Ireland to publicly worship, pray for peace, and proclaim hope. All Nation Church piloted a similar event in Dublin which attracted 20,000 attendees.
1.3	All Nation Church are requesting the use of Ormeau Park as the assembly point for the event and will rally peacefully through to City Hall where the event will conclude.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to grant authority to the applicants for the proposed event on the dates noted; subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolves all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary. <p>Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for ‘Events’, which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that the event will take place before full ratification of the committee decision at September’s full council meeting.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organisers will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts. Notification of Parades request will be required to be presented to the council along with a Traffic Management order.</p>
3.2	<p>All Nation Church – March for Jesus – Ormeau Park – Saturday 23rd August 2025</p> <p>Council have received a request from All Nation Church for their Rally on Saturday 23rd August 2025 to commence from Ormeau Park on to the Ormeau embankment and progressing down</p>

	the Ravenhill Road to City Hall, where the rally will conclude. Returning to Ormeau Embankment to access parked coaches.
3.3	<p>The proposed route for the event is as follows:</p> <p>The rally departs Ormeau Park 2:00 PM, and proceed peacefully via Ormeau Embankment, down Ravenhill Road to City Hall, where the event will conclude. City Hall have been notified of the rally by the All Nation Church. Some participants of the rally will be making their return journey back to Ormeau Embankment to access buses. Time to be confirmed by event organiser.</p>
3.4	There will be a family-friendly crowd of 5,000-10,000 participants. Final numbers will be determined by All Nation Church, through outreach and engagement with churches across Ireland. All Nation Church piloted a similar event in Dublin which attracted 20,000 attendees.
3.5	All Nation Church have contracted Wor. Bro. Paul R McMichael, County Grand Secretary of the Orange Order to assist with the logistics of the Rally from Ormeau Park to City Hall.
3.6	The PSNI have been informed along with an 11/1 parade notification being submitted.
3.7	<p>The event organiser will meet with the PSNI to ascertain the need for the closure of Ormeau embankment and to facilitate the parking of coaches of the attendees of the rally.</p> <p>Event Organisers will liaise with neighbouring Asian Supermarket and Ozone Complex, in order to allow full access to both sites, if the embankment is required to be closed.</p>
3.8	The Key dates for the request are:
3.9	<p>Set Up - 11.00am, Saturday 23 August 2025</p> <p>Main Event - 12noon - Gathering at Ormeau Park, Grass area and hardstanding surface beside Ozone complex, Saturday 23 August 2025</p> <p>Rally commences – 2.00pm, Saturday 23 August 2025</p> <p>De Rig – 5.00pm, Saturday 23 August 2025 (time to be confirmed by event organiser)</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known financial or resource implications at this time</p>
4.1	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications with this request.</p>

5.0	Appendices
	None